

Alice very politely; but she added, to herself, "Why, they're only a pack of cards, after all. I needn't be afraid of them!"

"And who are *these*?" said the Queen, pointing to the three gardeners who were lying round the rose-tree; for, you see, as they were lying on their faces, and the pattern on their backs was the same as the rest of the pack, she could not tell whether they were gardeners, or soldiers, or courtiers, or three of her own children.

"How should *I* know?" said Alice, surprised at her own courage. "It's no business of *mine*."

The Queen turned crimson with fury, and, after glaring at her for a moment like a wild beast, began screaming "Off with her head! Off with——"

"Nonsense!" said Alice, very loudly and decidedly, and the Queen was silent.

The King laid his hand upon her arm, and timidly said: "Consider, my dear: she is only a child!"

The Queen turned angrily away from him, and said to the Knave: "Turn them over!"

The Knave did so, very carefully, with one foot.

"Get up!" said the Queen in a shrill, loud voice, and the three gardeners instantly jumped up, and



began bowing to the King's children, and everybody

"Leave off that!" screamed the Queen. "It makes me giddy." And the King, who was sitting under the tree, she went on: "What are you doing here?"

"May it please your Majesty," said the King in a very humble tone, going down on one knee, "we were trying to get a rose for the Queen's crown."

"I see!" said the Queen. "You have been examining the roses, and the procession moved on, leaving the gardeners remaining behind to examine the roses. The gardeners, who ran to Alice, and she put them into a large flower-basket. The three soldiers wand